

Document 1

“The barbarians have broken through the ramparts. The Saracen [Moors] invasions have spread in successive waves over the South. The Hungarians swarm over the Eastern provinces... they sacked town and village, and laid waste the fields. They burned down the churches and then departed with a crowd of captives... There is no longer any trade, only unceasing terror... The peasant has abandoned his ravaged fields to avoid the violence of anarchy. The people have gone to cower in the depths of the forests or in inaccessible regions, or have taken refuge in the high mountains... Society has no longer any government...”

Source: Historian Frantz Funck-Bretano’s account of Ninth and Tenth Century Europe (Heinemann, 1922, p. 1-3).

Questions for class:

Document 2

I, John of Toul, make known that I am the liege man of
the [count and countess of
Champagne]... I will aid the count of Champagne in my
own person, and will send to he
count and countess of Champagne the knights whose
service I owe to them for the fief
which I hold of them.

Source: Homage Oath taken by John of Toul

Questions for class:

Document 3

842 In this year there was a great slaughter in London
and Quentavic and in
Rochester.

846 According to their custom the Northmen
plundered... and burned down the town
of Dordrecht... the Northmen, with their boats filled
with immense booty, including both
men and goods, returned to their own country...

Source: The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle tells of invasions of
England

Questions for class:

Document 4

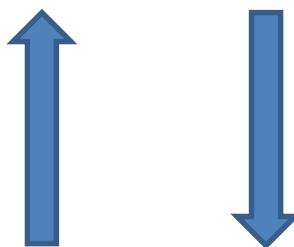
Feudal Obligations

Vassal to Lord:

Obligations: Loyalty

Military Service

Ransom, if needed



Lord to Vassal:

Obligations: Protection

Land (Fief)

Document 5

“... That from the first day of the Advent of our Lord through Epiphany... and throughout the year on every Sunday, Friday, and Saturday, and on the fast days of the four seasons... the decree of peace shall be observed... so that no one may commit murder, arson, robbery, or assault, no one may injure another with a sword, club, or any kind of weapon... On... every day set aside, or to be set aside, for fasts or feasts, arms may be carried, but on this condition, that on injury shall be done in any way to any one... If it shall happen that any castle is besieged during the days which are included within the peace, the besiegers hall cease from attack unless they are set upon by the besieged and compelled to beat the latter back...”

Source: Truce of God, 1083.

Questions for class:

Document 6

“... we learn that an age once traditionally described as “dark” had remarkable vitality and exuberance. Even at its worst it performed the function of guarding, frequently by accident and chance, the knowledge and treasured of what had come before, but even more it was creative and inventive, and transmitted to later ages great riches of its own.”

Source: “The Medieval Period” by Gray C. Boyce, 1964,
p. 69-70.

Questions for class:

Document 7

“... Medieval culture was imperfect, was restricted to a narrow circle of superior minds...

Measure it, however, by the memories and the achievements that it had bequeathed to the modern world, and it will be found not unworthy to rank with those of earlier and later Golden Ages. It flourished in the midst of rude surroundings, fierce passions, and material ambitions... we must judge of them by their philosophy and low, by their poetry and architecture.”

Source: *Medieval Europe* by H.C. Davis, 1946, p. 79.

Questions for class:

Document 8

“I hereby renounce my parents, my brother and relatives, my friends, my possessions... and the vain and empty glory and pleasure of this world. I also renounce my own will, for the will of God. I accept all the hardships of the monastic life, and take the vows of purity, chastity, and poverty, in the hope of heaven; and I promise to remain a monk in this monastery all the days of my life.”

Source: Monastic vows of Brother Gerald

Questions for class:

Document 9

“... Your brethren who live in the [Middle] East are in urgent need of your help... For, as most of you have heard, the Turks and the Arabs have attacked them and have conquered the territory of Romania [the Byzantine Empire]... They have occupied more and more of the lands of those Christians...

They have killed and captured many, and have destroyed the churches and devastated the Empire... All who die by the way, whether by land or sea, or in battle against the pagans, shall have immediate remission of sins.”

Source: Pope Urban II's call for the first Crusade, 1095.

Questions for class:

Document 10



Questions for class: